

Takeout Doubles After Both
Opponents Have Bid

For This Lesson, You're in the Fourth Seat

- LHO has opened the bidding.
- Partner has passed and RHO has bid.
 - If you make a take out double, you must have 12-17 points and support for all unbid suits.
 - Or 18+ points with any distribution.
- Remember, if RHO's bid is a non-jump two-level bid, you should evaluate your hand very carefully before entering the auction.
- In most cases you'll want to stay out.

You are West - Example 1

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1 ♥	??

♠ K Q 10 2



♥ 3 2

♦ 10 5 3


♣ A K J 4

- Double with 4-4 at least in the unbid suits ♣ and ♠ .
- Opening count.
- Something like this hand.

You are West - Example 2

North	East	South	West
1 	pass	1 	??

- With 5 of a major suit, it is better to overcall the major suit.

 K Q 10 8 2

 3 2

 10 5

 A K J 4

You are West – Example 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1 ♥	??

♠ K Q 10 8

♥ 3 2

♦ 10 5

♣ A K J 9 4

- Double when your five card suit is a minor.
- Make sure to get your major suit into the auction.

You are West – Example 4

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1 ♥	??

♠ K10 8 5

♥ A 2

♦ A J 10 5

♣ 9 4 3

- Don't double unless you can support both of the unbid suits.
- With this hand, you don't like it, but you just have to pass and play defense.

You are West – Example 5

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1 ♥	??

♠ A K J 10

♥ K 2

♦ Q J 10 5

♣ 9 4 3

- With a really good spade suit, you might overcall 1 ♠ .
- This is a dangerous bid and might turn out badly for your side.
- But it might work out.

You are West – Example 6

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	1nt	??

♠ A Q 10 7

♥ 3 2

♦ A J 10 5

♣ K 9 3

- When RHO's response is 1nt, you should bid as if RHO had opened the bidding in LHO's suit.
- You would double with:

You are West – Example 7

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	1nt	??

♠ A 7

♥ 8 5 2

♦ K J 10 5

♣ A Q 9 3

- You would **not** double with this hand.
- You cannot support all the unbid suits.
- You don't like it, but you must pass with this hand.

You are West – Example 8

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	1nt	??

♠ A K Q 9 7

♥ A 2

♦ A Q 10 5

♣ 9 3

- Of course you can double with this hand.
- 19 points. Double and if partner does not bid spades, you will bid the suit.
- Remember, changing suits after a takeout double shows 18+ points.

You are West – Example 9

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 ♥	??

♠ A Q 9 7

♥ 2

♦ K 10 8 5

♣ Q J 9 3

- If the opponents bid and raise the same suit, your double is still takeout.
- 12-17 points and support for all unbid suits.

You are West – Example 10

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 ♥	??

♠ A Q 9 7
♥ 4 2
♦ K 10 8 5
♣ J 9 3

- Some argue that when opponents bid and raise the same suit, you can double with a bit less than 12 points.
- RHO has limited her hand.
- Do this at your own risk.
- Do remember, if you pass, partner has an opportunity to make a balancing bid.
- More on this later.

You are West – Example 11

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	2 ♥	??

♠ A Q 9 7

♥ 4 2

♦ K 10 8 5

♣ A J 3

- If opponents are playing weak jump shift responses, your double is takeout.
- 12 to 17 with the other two suits.
- Something like this.

You are West – Example 12

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	pass	3 ♦	??

♠ 9 7

♥ K 9 2

♦ A K 10 8 5

♣ A J 3

- If opponents are playing Bergen Raises,
- 3 ♦ is alerted as a limit raise in spades.
- Is your double takeout?
- Or lead directing?
- Probably best if it is lead directing.
- Whatever you do must be clear with partner.

You are West – Example 13

North	East	South	West
2 ♥	pass	3 ♥	??

♠ K J 9 7

♥ 5 3

♦ A 10 8

♣ K J 8 3

- If opponents preempt and raise the preempt, a double is takeout.
- But don't double with a bad 12 such as this one.
- You need a bit more because the level is higher.

You are West – Example 14

North	East	South	West
2 ♥	pass	3 ♥	??

♠ K Q 9 7

♥ 5 3

♦ A J 10

♣ A J 8 3

- You should be happy to get into the bidding with something like this.
- 15 points and good support for the unbid suits.

You are West – Example 15

North	East	South	West
2 ♥	pass	4 ♥	??

♠ K Q 9 7

♥ 5 3

♦ A J 10

♣ A J 8 3

- If opponents preempt to the 4 level, you need a good hand to come in.
- If the bid is 4♥ or lower, your double is optional.
- Partner can choose to bid or pass for penalty.
- So, you need support for the unbid suits.

You are West – Example 16

North	East	South	West
2 ♠	pass	4 ♠	??

♠ A 9

♥ A J 3

♦ A J 10 7 5

♣ K Q 8

- If the preempt is 4 ♠ or higher, you expect partner to pass.
- However, partner might elect to bid, if he has a weak hand and a long suit. (6+ cards)
- Your hand might be something like this.

Let's Go Back to a Bidding Sequence We Looked at Earlier

North East South West

1 ♥ pass 2 ♥ ??

- I said you might come in with a double in this situation with less than 12 points.
- But you also might pass because your partner is in the balancing seat.
- So let's look at this auction from east's perspective.

You are East – Example 17

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 ♥	pass
pass	??		

♠ J 9 7 5 2

♥ A 4 2

♦ 8 5

♣ K 9 3

- What do you know about the hand?
- The opponents have about 18-22 points.
- You have 8 points.
- Partner has 10 or 11 points.
- Partner has, at most, 2 hearts.
- 2 ♠ is a reasonable bid.

You are East – Example 18

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 ♥	pass
pass	??		

♠ K 2
♥ 4 2
♦ A Q 8 5
♣ J 10 9 7 3

- 2nt
- By agreement, this should be unusual for lower unbid.
- What else could it be, in this bidding sequence.

You are East – Example 19

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 ♥	pass
pass	??		

♠ K 9 6 2
♥ 4
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ A 9 7 3

- Double!!
- With the right distribution, you can make a balancing double.
- You and your partner have half the available high-card points.

Final Thoughts

- On most of the examples we examined today, neither side has game values.
- While there certainly are exceptions to this point, it is seldom good matchpoint bridge, to let opponents play an uncontested partscore, below 2 ♠.
- Vulnerability is a factor, but when your side has close to half the points, you should be contesting the auction.